

PRETTY WORK FOR LITTLE FINGERS.

HOW TO MAKE A DOLL'S CARPET.



DOLL'S houses are, I hope, still valued by many of my girl readers. Surely that possession which used to afford me and my companions so much pleasure, varied amusement, and interest is not considered to be a foolish delight by the girls of to-day.

The doll's house which stood in our nursery was a hundred years old, and was quite a large dwelling for those small folk. It was really possible for a live girl or boy to get into any of the four rooms it contained, and many a time I have been shut up inside one; of course, while therein I was in a very crushed up and cramped position.

Now, in the "North Country," it is customary each year to have a spring cleaning. There are few people, however, who regard this annual household topsy-turvy in a favourable light, for most of us generally grumble and growl during the week of discomfort. Well, when the time came for the general turning upside down and inside out of the big house, it was the signal for our doll's house to be made tidy and renovated. Consequently, as spring has come, I am going to tell you how you can make a new and fashionable carpet for one of the rooms in your tiny house, an undertaking which need not frighten you in the least degree.

At the present time the fashionable carpets are square, and do not reach close to the walls of a room, and many of these are of foreign manufacture, the patterns of which are generally confused and undistinguishable; these two things considerably favour our design.

The style of work I am about to describe is often done for bedroom mats, to put before a dressing-table, or by the bedside—a nice warm comfort for the feet to rest upon when they are turned out of bed on a wintry morning. For a large article placed in a large room, coarser materials can be employed, and in such a case we should use Leviathan canvas and fleecy wools, but for a dainty doll's house we take finer canvas and single Berlin wool.

In this way the carpet is made. Take canvas which for ordinary wool-work you would consider to be coarse, cut a square piece an inch larger every

way than the size of the square you require; hem round this to prevent roving threads. Select some skeins of wool; the colours which usually abound in Indian and Turkish carpets are dull reds, orange brown, pale yellow and blue, cream colour, blue-greens, and dark slate-blue, together with a little black.

Have some thin twine at hand; if the canvas is white I prefer the twine to be coloured, because it is more easily discernible during the progress of the work. Cut off pieces of twine four or five inches in length; cut a piece of thick cardboard about two inches long and barely an inch wide. Wind wool six times round the width of the card, take it off, hold the loops together at one end, give them a twist, turn them up and tie the little bunch firmly at that end with a piece of twine.

Some people make these tufts in a different way, and one which they consider to be more expeditious. They take a piece of wood and put in it two nails or pegs, a certain distance apart; they then wind the wool round these, and tie the threads together in the middle before taking the loops off the nails. Other workers use a card barely half an inch wide, and tie the loops together without twisting and turning up the ends. So you have the choice of three plans.

I make a great number of these tufts of various colours, and then I attach them to the foundation. Put the two ends of string through two corresponding and adjoining holes in the canvas, and tie them at the back of the canvas in a firm knot. Miss two holes of canvas between each tuft, both in the lines down and also in those across. If the ends of the wool, when cut off, are left rather longer than the loops, they can be tied in at first, and will not obtrude, but should they rise up they must be cut until the same height as the loops. These latter are not cut, but remain loops. Our aim and object is to get these said loops into orderly fashion, all of the same size and in the same position. Fingers will soon be deft and cunning enough to accomplish this, so do not be disheartened if the array looks rather higgledy-piggledy on first trial. A little practice in a private corner soon makes us perfect in the art.

If you prefer another style, you can cut the loops and make the surface closer and not so deep. Again, if you prefer a carpet of fewer colours, shades of green or of crimson are particularly effective.

When the square is finished, the back is covered with thin cloth or thick serge.

E. C.